

CIVIL-SERVICE APPOINTMENTS.

JUNE 18, 1898.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. TAWNEY, from the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3256.]

The Committee on Reform in the Civil Service, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3256) in reference to the civil service and appointments thereunder, submit the following report:

In the matter of the appointment of persons to positions in the Executive Departments of the Government under existing law soldiers and sailors who incurred disabilities in the service and who have taken the civil-service examination are to be preferred. Under the provisions of the bill herewith reported this preference will extend to and include all honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, or marines who served as such between April 1, 1861, and August 26, 1865, without reference to the disabilities they may have incurred in the service. Under the present law the right of preference is based upon disabilities. Under the proposed bill the right of preference is based upon the service of the soldier who has served during the war and has an honorable discharge.

The present law has given rise to a great deal of dissatisfaction among ex-Union soldiers and sailors, for the reason that the man who may have served only one month or less, if during that service he incurred any disability, is given preference in the matter of employment by the Government over the soldier or sailor who may have served from the beginning until the close of the war, enduring all the hardships and privations incident to that service but incurring no permanent disabilities. The passage of this bill will not in any way affect the operation of the civil-service law, rules, or regulations with respect to examinations for appointment. Soldiers and sailors, under the provisions of this proposed law, who apply for positions will be required as now to pass the civil-service examination, the preference applying only in the selection of persons from the eligible list.

The proposed bill also applies to promotions as well as to appointments, and if passed will prevent the removal of any soldier or sailor except for good cause and upon charges and after a hearing.

Believing that the discrimination which the present law makes against the soldier or sailor who has an honorable record of service, but who was fortunate enough not to incur any permanent disability, is neither right nor just, your committee therefore recommend the passage of this bill.

